

In the Claims:

09/943589

Please cancel claims 1-14.

Please add the following claims:

-- 15. A circuit configuration, comprising:

a load transistor;

a current sensing transistor coupled to said load transistor;

a first evaluation circuit;

a second evaluation circuit; and

a switch configuration for receiving a control signal, said switch configuration including at least one switch connected downstream of said current sensing transistor, said switch configuration connecting said current sensing transistor to a selected evaluation circuit that is selected from the group consisting of said first evaluation circuit and said second evaluation circuit in dependence on said control signal.

16. The circuit configuration according to claim 1, wherein:

said load transistor has a load path and a voltage across said load path; and

said switch is driven depending on the voltage across said load path of said load transistor.

17. The circuit configuration according to claim 16, wherein:

said current sensing transistor provides an output current;
and

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cont.*
said switch configuration feeds the output current of said current sensing transistor to said selected evaluation circuit.

18. The circuit configuration according to claim 15, wherein:

said current sensing transistor provides an output current;
and

said switch configuration feeds the output current of said current sensing transistor to said selected evaluation circuit.

19. The circuit configuration according to claim 15,
comprising:

a first chip having said load transistor and said current sensing transistor integrated therein; and

a second chip having said switch configuration, said first evaluation circuit, and said second evaluation circuit integrated therein.

20. The circuit configuration according to claim 15, wherein:

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said load transistor has a load path and a voltage across said load path;

said switch configuration has a comparator configuration that receives a reference voltage; and

said comparator configuration compares the voltage across said load path of said load transistor with the reference voltage.

21. The circuit configuration according to claim 20, wherein:

said comparator configuration provides an output signal; and

said switch is driven in dependence on the output signal of said comparator configuration.

22. The circuit configuration according to claim 15, wherein:

said comparator configuration provides an output signal; and

said switch has a first transistor and a second transistor that are driven in dependence on the output signal of said comparator configuration.

23. The circuit configuration according to claim 15, wherein:

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cont.*
said first evaluation circuit includes a regulatable resistor connected in series with said current sensing transistor; and

said first evaluation circuit includes a comparator configuration regulating said regulatable resistor.

24. The circuit configuration according to claim 23, wherein:

said second evaluation circuit includes a further resistor connected in series with said regulatable resistor; and

a first current signal can be tapped off at said further resistor.

25. The circuit configuration according to claim 24, wherein said regulatable resistor is designed as a transistor.

26. The circuit configuration according to claim 23, wherein said regulatable resistor is designed as a transistor.

27. The circuit configuration according to claim 15, wherein:

said second evaluation circuit has a series circuit; and

said series circuit includes a resistor and a switch connected in series with said current sensing transistor.

28. The circuit configuration according to claim 27, wherein:

said switch configuration has a switch position; and

said switch of said series circuit of said second evaluation circuit is driven in dependence on the switch position of said switch configuration.

29. The circuit configuration according to claim 15, comprising:

a terminal for receiving a supply potential;

said comparator configuration providing an output signal;

said switch having a first transistor and a second transistor being driven in dependence on the output signal of said comparator configuration;

said first evaluation circuit including a regulatable resistor connected in series with said current sensing transistor;

said first evaluation circuit including a comparator configuration regulating said regulatable resistor;

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said regulatable resistor including a control terminal; and

said first transistor including a load path connected between said terminal for receiving the supply potential and said control terminal of said regulatable resistor.

30. The circuit configuration according to claim 15, comprising:

a terminal for receiving a supply potential;

said comparator configuration providing an output signal;

said switch having a first transistor and a second transistor being driven in dependence on the output signal of said comparator configuration;

said second evaluation circuit including a series circuit;

said series circuit including a resistor and a switch
connected in series with said current sensing transistor;

said switch of said series circuit including a control
terminal;

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said second transistor including a load path connected between
the supply potential and said control terminal of said switch
of said series circuit. --
